EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 306256912 US ATT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: N1085-00224 [TSMC 2003-0435]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Wang Hsiang Wei

Serial No.: Not Known Yet Group Art Unit: Not Known Yet

Filed: 11/24/2003 Examiner: Not Known Yet

For: METHOD FOR COMBINING VIA PATTERNS INTO A SINGLE MASK

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV 306256912 US to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

11/24/2003

Chris Lambriodes

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 CFR. § 1.56 in connection with the above-identified application, which statement is being filed:

- [X] Together with the present application.
- [] Before the first Office Action on the merits or three (3) months from the filing date of this application, whichever occurs last. [37 CFR § 1.97(b)]
- [] After the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action under §1.113 or Notice of Allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first. [37 CFR § 1.97(c)]
- [] After a Final Office Action under §1.113 or Notice of Allowance under §1.311, but prior to or with payment of the Issue Fee. [37 CFR § 1.97(d)]

Consistent with Applicant's obligations pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, the following requirements have been met:

- [x] No separate requirements are needed.
- [x] No additional fee is required.

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[] <u>Fee Under 37 CFR § 1.97(c)</u>

The fee of \$180.00 for submission of an IDS under § 1.97(c) as set forth in § 1.17(p) accompanies this statement.

[] Fee Under 37 CFR § 1.97(d)

The fee of \$180.00 for submission of an information disclosure statement under § 1.97(d) set forth in § 1.17(p) accompanies this statement.

[] Certification Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

- () Each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; or
- () No item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Provision of Copies of References

[^]	PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith and forms a part hereof.			
	[]	Partial Translations of References form a part hereof.	are enclosed herewith and	
	[]	A copy of the European Search Report from a EPO application is enclosed herewith.	corresponding or related	
	[]	A copy of the International Search Report from PCT application is enclosed herewith.	n a corresponding or related	

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Identification of Prior Application(s) In Which Listed Information Was Already Cited And For Which No Copies Are Submitted Or Need Be Submitted

- [] This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior U.S. Application No(s).

 The following references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) and therefore are not required to be provided in this application:
- [x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>04-1679</u>. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 11/24/03

Registration No. 34,892

Attorney for Applicant(s)

DUANE MORRIS LLP One Liberty Place Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396 Telephone: 215-979-1853

Fax: 215-979-1020

PTO/SB/08A (04-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO Application Number Not Yet Assigned Filing Date 11/24/2003 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Wang Hsiang Wei STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit Not Yet Assigned (Use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** Not Yet Assigned N1085-00224 Attorney Docket Number Sheet |1

			U. S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (F known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	Α	^{US-} 5,663,599	09-02-1997	Lur	
	В	^{US-} 5,675,187	10-07-1997	Numata et al.	
	С	^{US-} 6,109,775	08-29-2000	Tripathi et al.	
	D	^{US-} 6,355,563	03-12-2002	Cha et al.	
	E	^{US-} 6,492,259	12-10-2002	Dirahoui et al.	
		US-			
		US-	-		
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
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Signature		
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.